

What is claimed is:

1. A method for making a guide wire having a coil, comprising the steps of:
providing a core wire;
providing a wire;
generating a first property over a first section of said wire;
generating a second property over a second section of said wire, said second property being different from said first property;
forming said wire into a coil; and
securing said coil to said guide wire.
2. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 1, wherein said first and second properties are selected from the group consisting of radiopacity, lubricity, hydrophilicity, hemocompatibility, flexibility, malleability, stiffness, and shape memory.
3. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 1, wherein said first property generating step includes creating a first material layer over said first section, said first material layer providing at least part of said first property.
4. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 3, wherein said creating first material layer step includes creating a first material layer having a greater radiopacity than said second material radiopacity.

5. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 3, wherein said creating first material layer step includes plating a highly radiopaque first material over said wire first section, but not plating a highly radiopaque material over said wire second section, such that said first wire section is more radiopaque than said second wire section.

6. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 3, wherein said first material layer creating step includes creating a first material coating over said first section.

7. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 1, wherein said second property generating step includes creating a second material layer over said second section, said second material layer providing at least part of said second property.

8. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 7, wherein said second material layer creating step includes creating a second material coating over said second section.

9. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 6, wherein said first material coating creating step includes treating said first wire section to enhance binding of said first material to said wire, further comprising creating a first material layer over said second wire section, and removing said first material layer from said second wire section.

10. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 9, wherein said second wire section is not treated to enhance binding of said first material to said second wire section.

11. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 9, wherein said first wire section treating step includes exposing said first guide wire section to ionizing radiation.

12. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 9, wherein said first wire section treating step includes forming a tie-layer over said first wire section.

13. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 6, wherein said first material coating creating step includes treating said second wire portion to inhibit binding of said first material to said wire, further comprising creating a first material layer over said second wire section, and removing said first material from said second wire section.

14. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 13, wherein said first wire section is not treated to inhibit binding of said first material to said first wire section.

15. A method for making a guide wire distal portion as in claim 13, wherein said second wire section inhibiting binding step includes applying a release agent to said second wire section.

16. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 1, wherein said method includes making a plurality of said first sections and said second sections.

17. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 16, wherein said coil has a length, wherein said method includes making a plurality of alternating said first wire sections and said second wire sections, such that said coil has a plurality of said first and second properties disposed over said length.

18. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 17, wherein said first and second properties differ in radiopacity.

19. A method for making a guide wire as in claim 18, wherein a majority of said first wire sections are disposed at regular intervals therebetween over said length.

20. A guide wire including a distal portion having a coil disposed about said guide wire distal portion, said coil being integrally formed, having a first property over a first section of said coil, having a second property over a second section of said wire, wherein said second property is different from said first property.

21. A guide wire as in claim 20, wherein said first and second properties are selected from the group consisting of radiopacity, lubricity, hydrophilicity, hemocompatibility, flexibility, malleability, stiffness, and shape memory.

22. A guide wire as in claim 20, wherein at least some of said first property is provided by a first material sleeve disposed over said first coil section but not over said second coil section.

23. A guide wire as in claim 20, wherein at least some of said first property is provided by a first material coating disposed over said first coil section but not over said second coil section.

24. A guide wire as in claim 23, wherein said coil has a plurality of said first and second sections.

25. A guide wire as in claim 24, wherein said coil has a plurality of alternating said first sections and said second sections.

26. A guide wire as in claim 25, wherein said first and second properties differ in radiopacity from each other.

27. A guide wire as in claim 26, wherein a majority of said first wire sections are disposed at regular intervals therebetween over said lengths.

28. A guide wire as in claim 20, wherein said first and second properties differ in radiopacity from each other.

in many respects, only illustrative. Changes may be made in details, particularly in matters of shape, size, and arrangement of parts without exceeding the scope of the invention. The invention's scope is, of course, defined in the language in which the appended claims are expressed.